



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: June 30, 2006

Meeting Location: Heartford House
1021 N. 17th Street
Lafayette, IN

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Janis Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; and Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Rader by Proxy Linda Akers, Warren County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor and Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County.

Council Members Absent: Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director, Tippecanoe County; Judge Henderson, Fountain County; and Deann Beery, Foster Parent.

Others In Attendance: Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Jackie Agee, Regional Supervisor, Whites Residential; Angela Smith Grossman, Director, Tippecanoe County DCS; Mary Roth, Roth & Associates; and Shalon Perez, Director Heartford House.

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:30 am

1. Shalon Perez, Director of Heartford House, a Child Advocacy Center, was introduced. She gave a brief talk about Heartford House. They are fully funded for another year. The house is given to them to use by Greater Lafayette Health Services, which takes care of all maintenance. There have been 1080 children interviewed at Heartford House since 2000. Shalon gave a tour of the house. The interview room has a comfortable chair for the child and for the interviewer and is equipped with a surveillance camera. There is a phone in the room so observers in the basement (law enforcement, prosecutor's office, etc.) may feed questions to the interviewer. The hallway is covered with children's handprints. Once the interview is over if the child asks, they may put their handprint on the wall. In the basement there is a television connected to the surveillance camera in the interview room with a

small table and chairs for observers and a telephone for use in feeding questions to the interviewer.

Law enforcement agencies are sometimes an obstacle to Heartford House because they have the idea that sometimes the interview isn't worth their time if the prosecutor isn't going to file charges anyway. It also takes them away from adult crimes, which they have a tendency to feel takes priority.

The advantage of using a Child Advocacy Center over the county office or law enforcement agency is that it is a less sterile environment where the child and the family are more comfortable. The technology is excellent and they have great interviews, according to Sharon. Sharon also stated that Child Advocacy Center directors statewide meet each month.

Corner House, a three day forensic interview training program, is on the table for funding statewide. It is believed that one good, solid interview is more important than multiple interviews.

Angela Smith Grossman asked if we might be able to fund a Child Advocacy Center through Child Welfare services. This request is non-standardized and would usually be thrown out. Gil suggested that we would need to develop a plan with Community Partners to have a certain amount of funding for these services.

2. Mary Roth of Roth & Associates stated that there is a big issue of building a proposal for what Community Partners is supposed to do in this region. They cannot proceed with the contract because they have not received an updated proposal from Wabash Valley. Mary will contact Diane Huddleston to try to expedite the proposal. She said that right now we need to look at what has been budgeted and then the money may be moved later.
You may encumber funds from this year (2006) and carry it over to next year but you will need to email Mary at mary@rothassociates.org to request it. Some counties will have no money to carry over. Gil said that he did not hold any money into the regional reserve but there would probably be a way to split the county monies if needed.
3. Handouts were distributed showing Decision to Substantiate and Decisions of Substantiated numbers by zip code. These are an informational tool to look at and compare with neighboring counties.
4. Jan Mullen –
Rainbow Haven in Clinton County is a transitional home with a maximum capacity of five families with no men or teenage boys. A family may stay there until they are self-sufficient but they are required to work full time while they are there. NO drugs are allowed. The average stay is 4 – 5 months. The Board consists of different people in the community. 99% of

the people who stay at Rainbow Haven have been involved with the DCS office.

Jan made a proposal for \$20,000 for 2006 and she will write a grant tying the money to the children.

Motion to approve was made by Linda Akers, seconded by Cathy Booe. Motion passed.

Genesis in Carroll County – Gil helped start this program that began in 1999 as a Carroll County alternative program. In 2001 two middle school students began attending Genesis and both of them graduated last year. Genesis is not supported financially by the schools. They already have materials, desks, computers, etc., but need money for salaries. Jan is proposing \$3500 for 2006 and \$4500 for 2007.

Motion to approve was made by Elva James, seconded by Barb Bedrick. Motion passed.

5. Cindy Mason made a proposal to fund the 2006 summer parks program in Covington. There are 60 – 80 children in attendance from 1st to 6th grades. Many of these children are in our system. A mentoring service is also provided with college students and high school graduates working with the kids. If not for their involvement in the parks program many of these kids would be at home alone.

Motion to approve \$6800 for Covington Parks programs was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Linda Akers. Motion passed.

For Veedersburg parks program \$12,000 and Attica parks program \$16,000. Motion to approve was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Jan Mullen. Motion passed.

Cindy also made a proposal for funding for Fountain County Mentoring, Inc. Fountain County has been trying to get such a program since 1988 and two years ago they received a IVB contract with Cindy and the Judge to come up with \$50,000 for the first year. This program serves 10 – 12 kids in a year and is still growing. They are looking at fundraising ventures for future years. Big Brothers Big Sisters is prohibitive for the smaller counties who are watching the Fountain County program with interest. Cindy is requesting \$48,000. Motion to approve was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Elva James. Motion passed.

6. Barb Bedrick asked for \$12,000 with a \$17,000 grant match for a community advocate to work with coordination of services for children and families who do not meet the System of Care definition. The advocate will work with all ages but our portion will be used for families and children. The grant is a Lilly 4 community grant through the local United Way. It will be a one time funding to start the program. Motion to approve was made by Elva James, seconded by Linda Akers. Motion passed.

7. Elva would like to consider having the counties help each other in starting mentoring programs.

**** Please note – there will be no Region 5 Regional Services Council meeting in July.****

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: Friday, August 25, 2006 at 8:30 am at the Tippecanoe County Department of Child Services.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:35 am.